

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3662

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0732

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINS AO

SUBJECT: POST MORTEM ON THE JUNE 5-8 LUANDA ROUND

1. ALTHOUGH THE LATEST EPISODE OF FIGHTING IN LUANDA FOLLOWED SOME PREVIOUSLY SET PATTERNS - FOR EXAMPLE THE ROUGHLY ONE MONTH TIME PERIOD BETWEEN ROUNDS AND THE DURATION OF THE FIGHTING ITSELF - THERE WERE SOME SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES THIS TIME.

MOST IMPORTANT: UNITA'S PARTIAL AND INVOLUNTARY, INVOLVEMENT (SEPTEL), THE BEGINNING OF CLASSIC TERRORISM AGAINST WHITES, THE FIRST PORTUGUESE ATTEMPT - AND SUBSEQUENT FAILURE - TO ACT FIRMLY AND QUANTUM JUMP IN THE USE OF HEAVIER WEAPONS.

2. WE ARE ALSO LEFT WITH SOME MAJOR QUESTIONS.

A. WHO STARTED IT? THE PORTUGUESE THINK IT WAS MPLA, BUT AREN'T POSITIVE. THE LIB GROUPS BLAME EACH OTHER. THE CONSENSUS IS MPLA BUT CONTRADICTING THAT IS THE FACT THE FIGHTING APPEARED TO BREAK OUT FIRST IN THEIR AREA (VILLA ALICE) IMPLYING AN FNLA

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FIRST STRIKE.

B. WHY? IF MPLA TOUCHED IT OFF, IT PROBABLY MEANS THE HARD LINERS (NETO AND THE MILITARY APPARAT) DECIDED TO ASSERT CONTROL IN "THEIR" CITY. IF FNLA OPENED, WE'RE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN IT.

C. WHY DIDN'T MPLA FINISH IT? TWO OBVIOUS POSSIBILITIES: EITHER THEY COULDN'T OR DIDN'T WANT TO. THE MORE LIKELY IS THEY DON'T WANT THE ONUS OF BEING THE PARTY TO END THE REMAINING FICTION OF A TRI-PARTY GOVERNMENT. ALSO POSSIBLE IS THAT EVEN THE PORTUGUESE WOULDN'T STAND FOR A BLATANT MPLA TAKEOVER OF THE CITY.

3. WE'RE LEFT WITH LUANDA THE ONLY MAJOR EXCEPTION OUTSIDE THE SOUTH TO THE LINE-STRAIGHTENING EXERCISE WHICH TOOK PLACE MAY 28 TO JUNE 3. LUANDA IS THE ONLY AREA NOT CLEARLY CONTROLLED BY MPLA OR FNLA. THIS CHUCKING OUT OF "OUTSIDERS" (MPLA FROM ZAIRE DISTRICT AND NORTHERN UIGE, FNLA FROM THE LUANDA-MALANGE CORRIDOR) CAN PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED THE REAL BEGINNING OF THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR; PRIOR TO THAT THERE WERE IMPLICIT VIOLATIONS OF THE ALVOR ACCORD; I.E. KILLING ONE ANOTHER. HOWEVER, NOW A KEY ELEMENT OF THAT ACCORD - EACH GROUP'S PLEDGE TO TOLERATE THE OTHERS IN ITS OWN ETHNIC AREA - IS NO MORE. PORTER

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